



DOCTOR STRANGE®

MARVEL

#22

HOPELESS
HENRICHON





STEPHEN STRANGE was a preeminent surgeon until a car accident damaged the nerves in his hands. His ego drove him to scour the globe for a miracle cure, but instead he found a mysterious wizard called the ANCIENT ONE who taught him magic and that there are things in this world bigger than himself. These lessons led Stephen to become the Sorcerer Supreme, Earth's first defense against all manner of magical threats. His patients call him...

DOCTOR STRANGE

A Cosmic Cube transformed Captain America into the ultimate Hydra sleeper agent--and the country is now under Hydra's control. Doctor Strange, along with Spider-Woman and reporter Ben Urich, is attempting to destroy the Darkforce bubble that envelops New York City. The city is ruled by Baron Mordo, who has already captured Daredevil and taken control of the Sanctum Sanctorum. But the side of good found an unexpected ally: Wilson Fisk, the former Kingpin of Crime!

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DOCTOR STRANGE CREATED BY **STAN LEE AND STEVE DITKO**

NEW YORK CITY.

ORDINARILY I'D TRUST
WILSON FISK ABOUT AS FAR
AS I CAN TOSS HIM.

BUT LET'S
FACE FACTS.

AS THINGS CURRENTLY
STAND, IF IT CAME TIME
TO THROW SOMETHING...

...THE KINGPIN WOULD
BE ONE OF MANHATTAN'S
MORE *MANAGEABLE*
VILLAINOUS PROJECTILES.

I'M A
CHANGED MAN.
A NEW LEAF HAS
BEEN TURNED.

BUT
I'LL NEVER
BE MISTAKEN FOR
SOME DOE-EYED
SUPER HERO
BUFFOON.

NO
OFFENSE.

I'M A
PRAGMATIST. A
BUSINESSMAN.
NOTHING MORE.
NOTHING
LESS.

AND
MANHATTAN
IS JUST AS MUCH
MY HOME AS IT
IS YOURS.

THIS DARKNESS
IS DESTROYING
EVERYTHING I HOLD DEAR
AND I WILL NOT ALLOW
THAT TO CONTINUE.

I HAVE
ACCESS TO
RESOURCES YOU
COLORFUL FOLKS
DO NOT.

AND
VICE VERSA,
I'M SURE.

WHAT I
PROPOSE IS A
VERY SENSIBLE
PARTNERSHIP.

COLOR ME
INTRIGUED.

GOOD
TO HEAR.

A MAN OF
REASON, DESPITE
THE REN FAIRE
CLOWNFIT.

THESE
RESOURCES
OF YOURS...TELL
ME MORE.



MAYBE
I'M CRACKING
UP HERE...

...BUT ARE
WE HONESTLY
ENTERTAINING
THIS CRAP?!

YUP.

HE'S THE
KINGPIN!

OF
CRIME!



LET'S COUNT
THEM DOWN.

FRAUD.
LARCENY. EXTORTION.
KIDNAPPING.

AND THAT'S
BEFORE WE
DELVE INTO THE
VIOLENT--



SKREEE

ENOUGH.



I LET YOU TYPE WHAT
YOU LIKE INTO YOUR
LITTLE RAG, URICH.

NOBODY
READS IT. NOBODY
CARES.

BUT YOU'RE
ABOUT TO FIND OUT
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN
PEOPLE MAKE UNFOUNDED
ACCUSATIONS TO MY FACE.



PRETTY SURE THAT'S A
GAME YOU'LL LOSE,
HUMPTY.

TWIRL
THAT EGG
BACK AROUND
AND TELL YOUR
STORY.





THE NEWSMAN PUSHED MY BUTTONS, IS ALL.

THE ISLAND OF MANHATTAN IS UNDER SIEGE BY THE DARKFORCE DIMENSION...

...AND I'M TRAPPED IN A GILDED GOLF CART...



THIS MAN IS A KNOWN VILLAIN!

...WITH A PACK OF OVERGROWN CHILDREN.



WE ALL HAVE OUR INDISCRETIONS.

INDISCRETIONS! HE'S THE HEAD OF AN ORGANIZED CRIME--

FORMERLY. I'M SURE YOU'LL WRITE A SCINTILLATING COLUMN ONE DAY ABOUT BEING FORCED TO SWIM WITH THIS PARTICULAR SHARK.



BUT WE'RE IN THE TIGHTEST OF SPOTS RIGHT AT THE MOMENT AND FISK MAKES A FAIR POINT.



WORKING TOGETHER MIGHT BE THE ONLY CHANCE WE STAND HERE.

SO CAN WE PLEASE JUST LET THE MAN TALK?

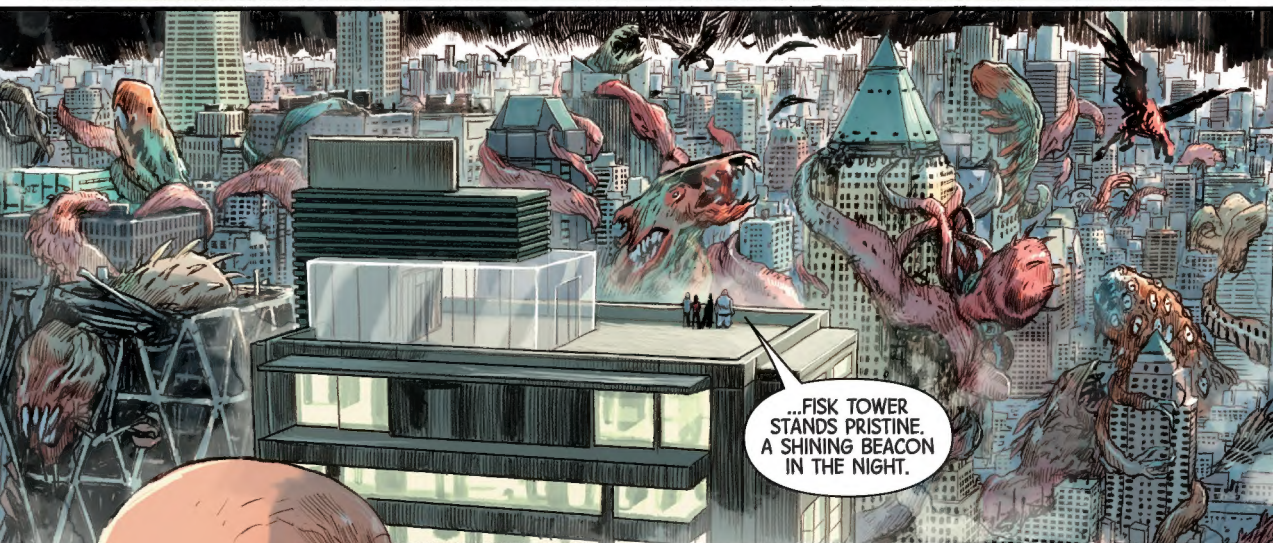
... FINE.

YOU MIGHT HAVE NOTICED THERE ARE NO MONSTERS DOWN HERE.

WEALTH AND INFLUENCE COME WITH CERTAIN PROTECTIONS, YOU SEE.



WE AT THE TOP BREATHE RARIFIED AIR AND PAY HANDSOMELY FOR THE PRIVILEGE.



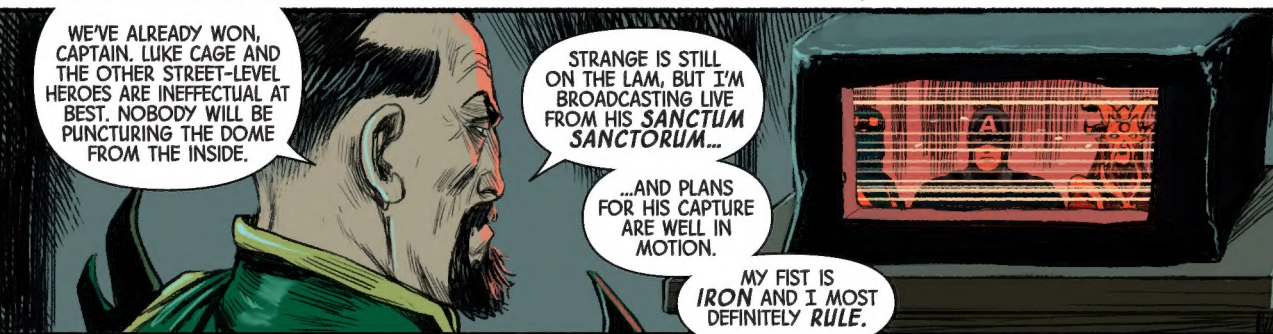


...HOW ARE THINGS IN THE DARKFORCE?

OH, JUST PEACHY KEEN, ZEMO.

I HAVE ZERO PATIENCE FOR CUTE, MORDO.

SITREP. NOW.



WE'VE ALREADY WON, CAPTAIN. LUKE CAGE AND THE OTHER STREET-LEVEL HEROES ARE INEFFECTUAL AT BEST. NOBODY WILL BE PUNCTURING THE DOME FROM THE INSIDE.

STRANGE IS STILL ON THE LAM, BUT I'M BROADCASTING LIVE FROM HIS SANCTUM SANCTORUM...

...AND PLANS FOR HIS CAPTURE ARE WELL IN MOTION.

MY FIST IS IRON AND I MOST DEFINITELY RULE.



THESE ARE DARK DAYS, THERE'S NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN SOME BARON MORDO FREE-FOR-ALL.

CONFINE THE HEROES ANY WAY YOU LIKE, THAT'S THE JOB. BUT NO ONE DIES.

AND I WANT THAT CITY STANDING WHEN THIS IS OVER.

TAKE ONE STEP OUT OF LINE AND YOU'RE DONE.



I WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT, CAPTAIN.

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...I'M NO GOOD AT ALL WITHOUT MY MORNING CLIP OF JOE.



BOY, I HATE THAT GUY.

WE SHOULDN'T BE TRUSTING SOMETHING SO FRAGILE TO A COCKY FOOL.

THE MAGICIAN IS A NECESSARY EVIL, BUT HE CAN BE CONTROLLED. YOU'LL SEE.

HEH. NECESSARY EVIL.



GAH!
BACK,
YOU!

BACK,
I SAY!



DAMNABLE
FRIDGE!



WHEW.

YOU KNOW,
I UNDERSTAND
THE SORCERER
SUPREME REQUIRES
A LIVELY
DIET...

...BUT DOES
EVERY CUP OF
COFFEE REALLY
NEED TO BE SUCH
A HERCULEAN
TRIAL?



THE MAN
COULDN'T GET
HIMSELF A SECONDARY
REFRIGERATOR TO
HOUSE THE BEER AND
HALF-AND-HALF?



STILL WITH THE NINJA YOGA SILENT TREATMENT, I SEE.

IF NOTHING ELSE, I DO RESPECT YOUR COMMITMENT.

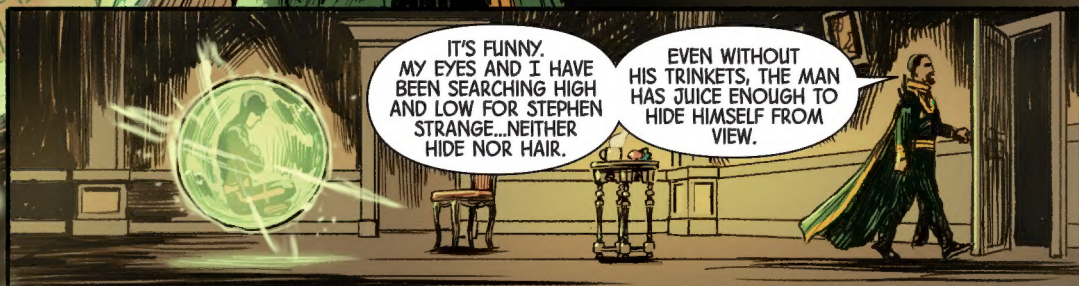
WHAT'S THIS POSE CALLED AGAIN?



CRISS-CROSS APPLESAUCE?

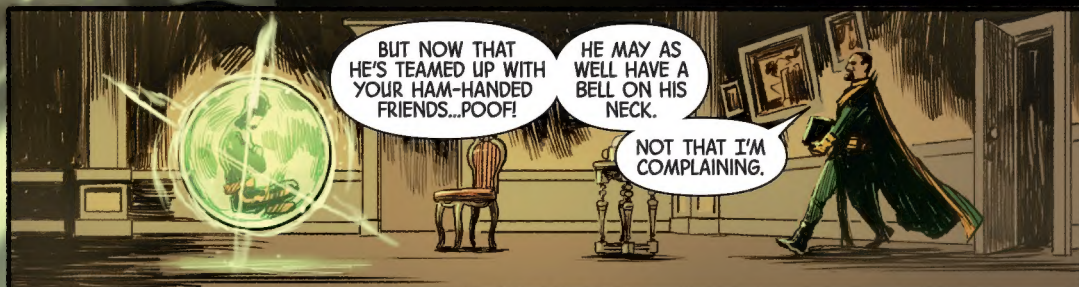


I KID, DAREDEVIL. I ONLY KID.



IT'S FUNNY. MY EYES AND I HAVE BEEN SEARCHING HIGH AND LOW FOR STEPHEN STRANGE...NEITHER HIDE NOR HAIR.

EVEN WITHOUT HIS TRINKETS, THE MAN HAS JUICE ENOUGH TO HIDE HIMSELF FROM VIEW.



BUT NOW THAT HE'S TEAMED UP WITH YOUR HAM-HANDED FRIENDS...POOF!

HE MAY AS WELL HAVE A BELL ON HIS NECK.

NOT THAT I'M COMPLAINING.



SINCE YOU'RE CLEARLY IN NO MOOD TO CHAT...

...I THOUGHT WE MIGHT SIT AND WATCH...



SNAP

...THEIR CAPTURE.

NOTHING QUITE LIKE
A SECRET ILLUMINATI
GOLF CART TUNNEL...

...THAT'S COMPLETELY
USELESS IF YOU'RE GOING
ANYWHERE OUTSIDE OF
CASA DE KINGPIN.

YES,
HUFF, HUFF,
WELL, HUFF...

...MY TUNNEL
HAS, HUFF, HUFF,
ONLY SAVED YOUR LIFE,
HUFF, HUFF, A HALF-
DOZEN TIMES, HUFF,
TODAY.

TERRIBLY,
HUFF, HUFF,
SORRY,
HUFF...

...IT ISN'T
MORE
CONVENIENT,
HUFF, HUFF,
FOR YOU.

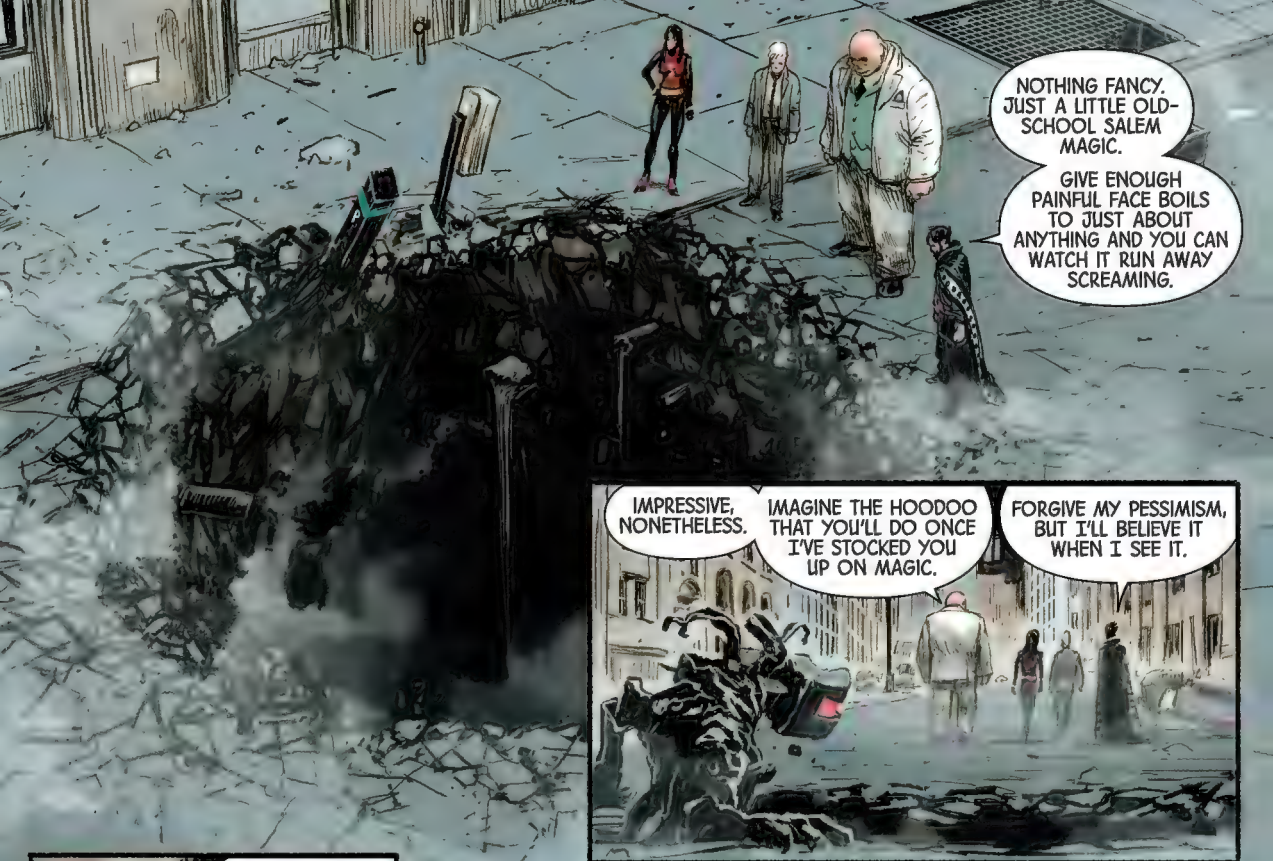
APOLOGY
ACCEPTED.

EVERYBODY
DOWN!

WAAGH!

HOW'D YOU
MANAGE THAT, STRANGER?
FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN
ONE OF THESE THINGS
RETREAT.

FWOOOMP



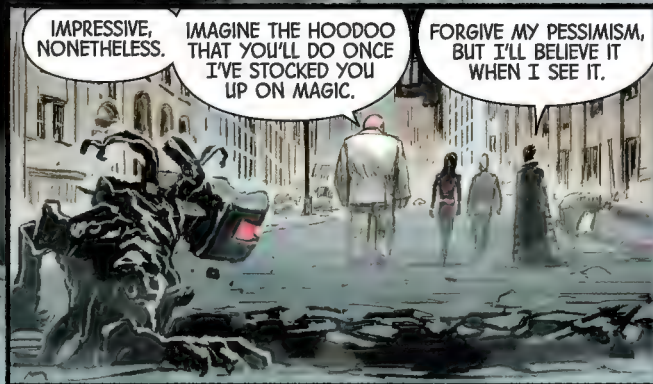
NOTHING FANCY.
JUST A LITTLE OLD-
SCHOOL SALEM
MAGIC.

GIVE ENOUGH
PAINFUL FACE BOILS
TO JUST ABOUT
ANYTHING AND YOU CAN
WATCH IT RUN AWAY
SCREAMING.

IMPRESSIVE,
NONETHELESS.

IMAGINE THE HOODOO
THAT YOU'LL DO ONCE
I'VE STOCKED YOU
UP ON MAGIC.

FORGIVE MY PESSIMISM,
BUT I'LL BELIEVE IT
WHEN I SEE IT.



I ALWAYS
UNDER-PROMISE
AND OVER-DELIVER,
STRANGE.



IF MY
WIZARD'S
STOCKPILE
DOESN'T CURL
YOUR TOES...



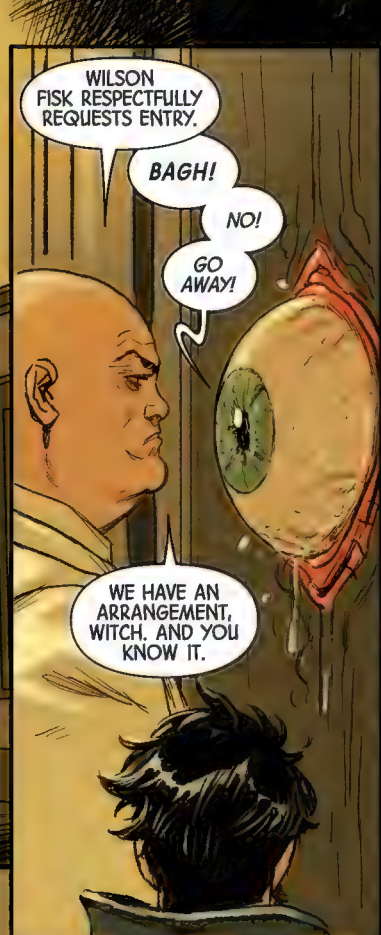




PRETTY SWANK DIGS
MADAM MIM
HAS HERE.

EVIDENTLY,
DARK WIZARDRY
IS MORE LUCRATIVE
THAN I WOULD'VE
GUESSED.

YOU
HAVE NO
IDEA.



WILSON
FISK RESPECTFULLY
REQUESTS ENTRY.

BAGHI!

NO!

GO
AWAY!

WE HAVE AN
ARRANGEMENT,
WITCH. AND YOU
KNOW IT.



HA!

NOTHING
IS AS IT ONCE
WAS.

OUR
CONTRACT IS
VOID. LEAVE!



I AM NOT
ALONE. AS YOU
CAN SEE...

...STEPHEN
STRANGE HAS
COME AS MY
GUEST.

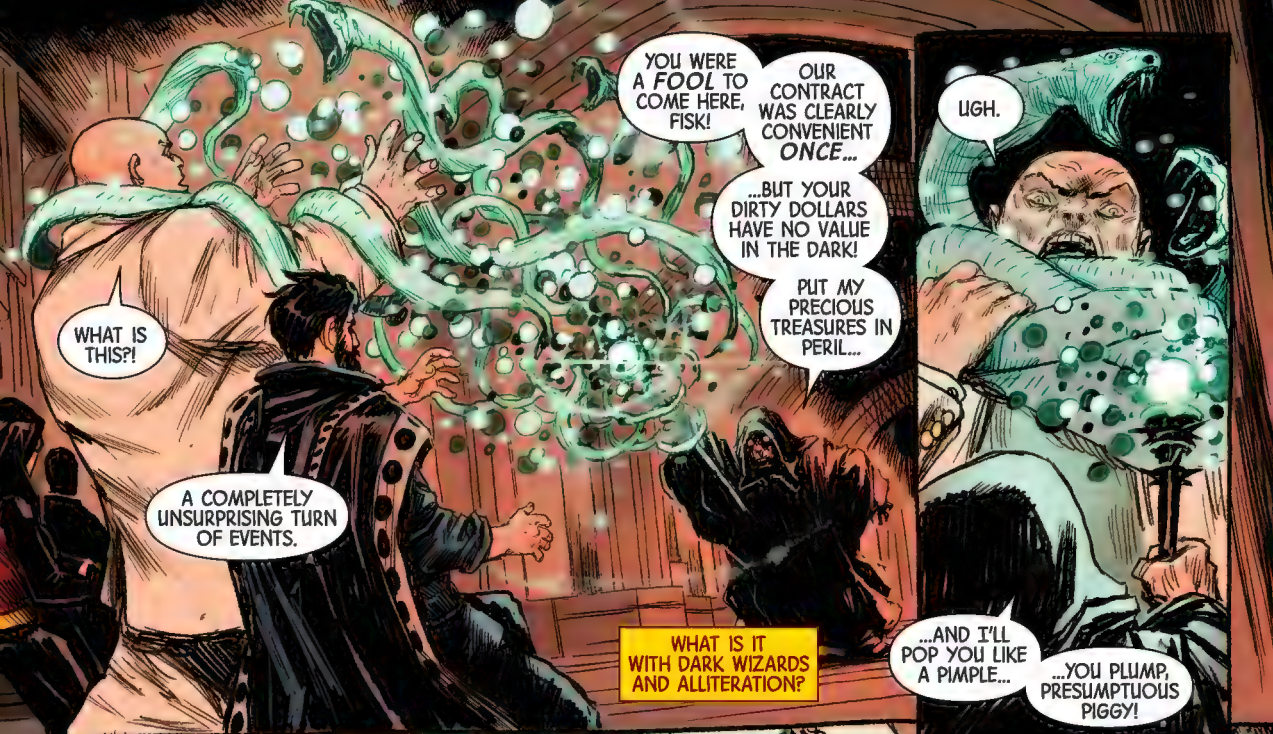
HMM...
SORCERER
SUPREME...
YES.

FINE.
ENTER.



BUT
DO IT
QUICKLY.

ZZZZZZ



WHAT IS THIS?!

A COMPLETELY UNSURPRISING TURN OF EVENTS.

YOU WERE A FOOL TO COME HERE, FISK!

OUR CONTRACT WAS CLEARLY CONVENIENT ONCE...

...BUT YOUR DIRTY DOLLARS HAVE NO VALUE IN THE DARK!

PUT MY PRECIOUS TREASURES IN PERIL...

UGH.

WHAT IS IT WITH DARK WIZARDS AND ALLITERATION?

...AND I'LL POP YOU LIKE A PIMPLE...

...YOU PLUMP, PRESUMPTUOUS PIGGY!

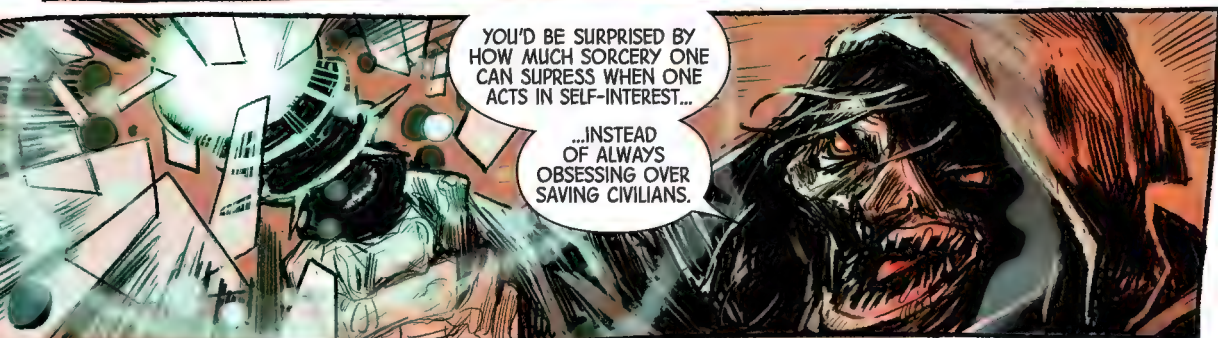
ALWAYS SOUNDS LIKE A SATURDAY MORNING CARTOON.

YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT. NOW LET HIM BE. WE MEAN YOU NO HARM.

IN FACT, I'M IMPRESSED. I'D THOUGHT ANY SUCH HUB OF MAGIC DESTROYED.

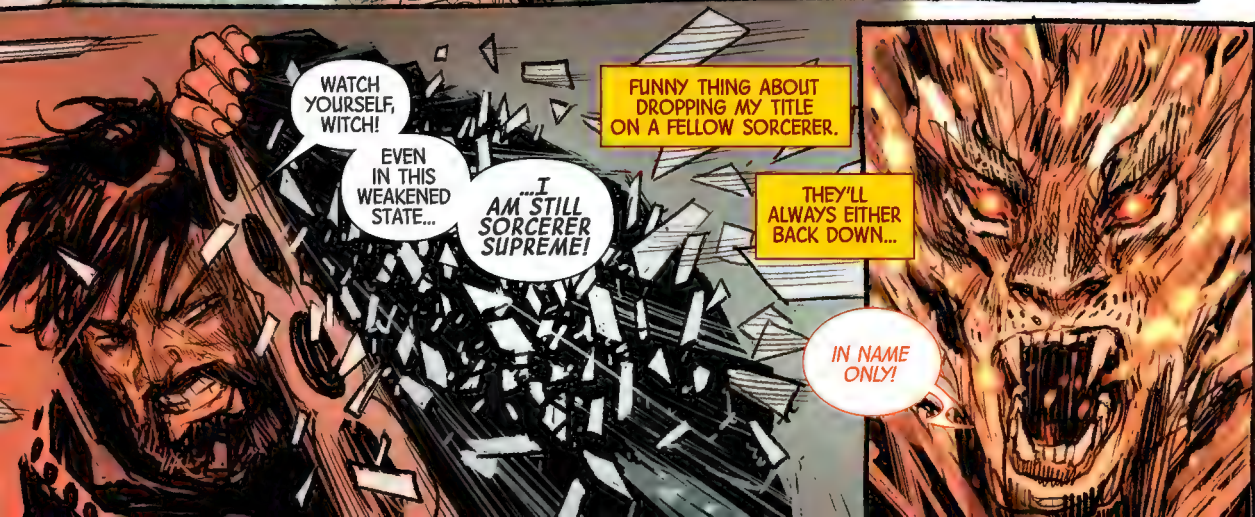
HOW HAVE YOU MANAGED TO HIDE THIS AWAY?

SECURITY IS MY SPECIALTY, STRANGE.



YOU'D BE SURPRISED BY HOW MUCH SORCERY ONE CAN SUPPRESS WHEN ONE ACTS IN SELF-INTEREST...

...INSTEAD OF ALWAYS OBSESSING OVER SAVING CIVILIANS.



WATCH YOURSELF, WITCH!

EVEN IN THIS WEAKENED STATE...

...I AM STILL SORCERER SUPREME!

FUNNY THING ABOUT DROPPING MY TITLE ON A FELLOW SORCERER.

THEY'LL ALWAYS EITHER BACK DOWN...

IN NAME ONLY!

...OR STEP UP.

EITHER WAY, I'LL
KNOW IMMEDIATELY...

...EXACTLY WHAT
BRAND OF **STUPID**
I'M DEALING WITH.

THIS WITCH WANTS
TO PROVE HER WORTH
BY BESTING THE GREAT
AND POWERFUL
DOCTOR STRANGE.

SHE'LL DO HER
WORST STRAIGHT
OUT OF THE GATE.

SEE?

BIGGEST, FLASHIEST
FLAMING TIGER TRICK
ON FULL DISPLAY.

SHE GOES BIG,
SO I GO SMALL.

EXTINGUISH.

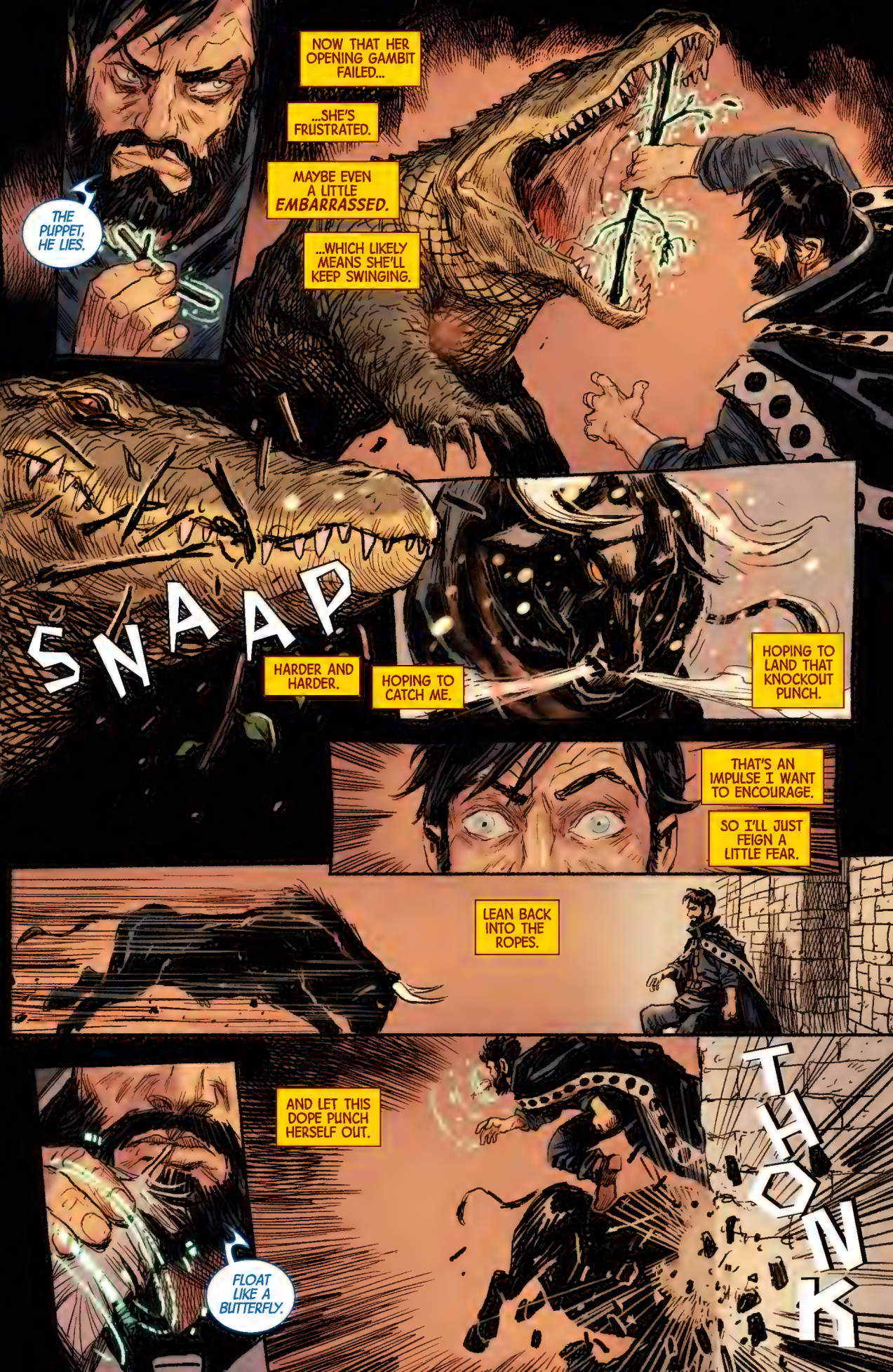
IT'S SIMPLE
BOXING
STRATEGY.

THERE'S NO NEED
TO TRADE HAYMAKERS
IN THE CENTER
OF THE RING...

...WHEN I CAN
SIMPLY SIDE STEP
AND JAB.

NOT LIKE
THIS, STEPHEN
STRANGE.

THIS IS MY
HOUSE!



NOW THAT HER
OPENING GAMBIT
FAILED...

...SHE'S
FRUSTRATED.

MAYBE EVEN
A LITTLE
EMBARRASSED.

...WHICH LIKELY
MEANS SHE'LL
KEEP SWINGING.

THE
PUPPET,
HE LIES.

SNAP

HARDER AND HARDER.

**HARDER AND
HARDER.**

HOPING TO
CATCH ME.

HOPING TO
LAND THAT
KNOCKOUT
PUNCH.

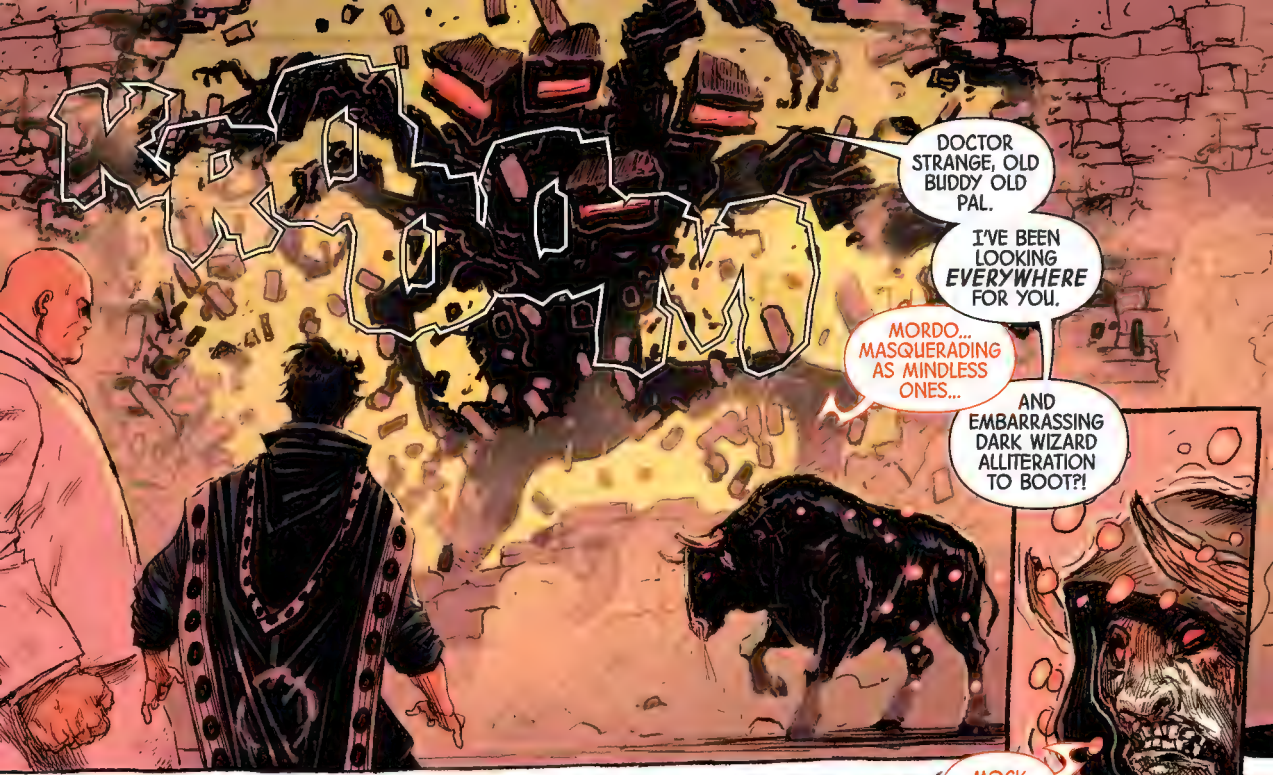
THAT'S AN
IMPULSE I WANT
TO ENCOURAGE.

SO I'LL JUST
FEIGN A
LITTLE FEAR.

LEAN BACK
INTO THE
ROPES.

AND LET THIS
DOPE PUNCH
HERSELF OUT.

**FLOAT
LIKE A
BUTTERFLY.**

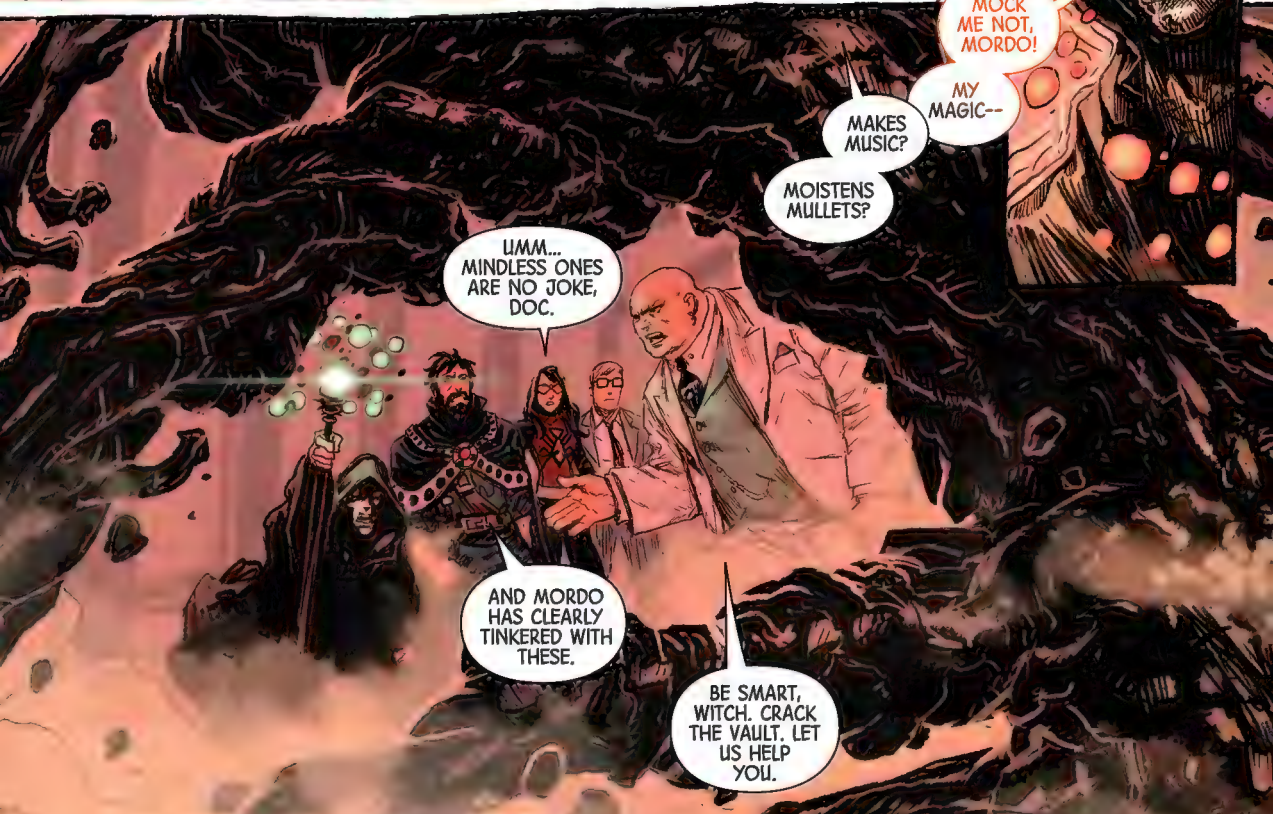


DOCTOR
STRANGE, OLD
BUDDY OLD
PAL.

I'VE BEEN
LOOKING
EVERYWHERE
FOR YOU.

MORDO...
MASQUERADING
AS MINDLESS
ONES...

AND
EMBARRASSING
DARK WIZARD
ALLITERATION
TO BOOT?!



MOCK
ME NOT,
MORDO!

MY
MAGIC--

MAKES
MUSIC?

MOISTENS
MULLET?

UMM...
MINDLESS ONES
ARE NO JOKE,
DOC.

AND MORDO
HAS CLEARLY
TINKERED WITH
THESE.

BE SMART,
WITCH. CRACK
THE VAULT. LET
US HELP
YOU.



NEVER!



THE POWER
THAT PAID FOR
MY PARK AVENUE
PENTHOUSE...

...POSITIVELY
PROMISES THAT
PILFERING
PLEBS...

--SHALL
NOT PASS!

THOOOM

KR-
EE-
EE-

HOLY HELL,
SHE WENT FULL
GANDALF!

DID THE
KINGPIN JUST
MAKE A STAR WARS
REFERENCE?

SHH...
NO.

ARE
YOU PEOPLE
IMPRESSED?

YEAH, NO,
THAT WAS A
GOOD SPELL.

I MEAN, IT
FAILED.

MISERABLY.



BUT YOU LOOKED DAMNED GOOD CASTING IT.

NOOO!
NOOO!



FISK! HELP ME!

I TRIED TO HELP BACK WHEN THERE WAS STILL TIME.

THAT WINDOW HAS CLOSED.

MY TREASURES!

OH YES. MORDO WILL TAKE THOSE WITH HIM JUST AS SOON AS HE'S DISPENSED WITH THE REST OF US.

SUCH A SHAME YOU WOULDN'T LISTEN.



FINE, FISK!
FINE!

TAKE MY TREASURES AND TEACH HIM!



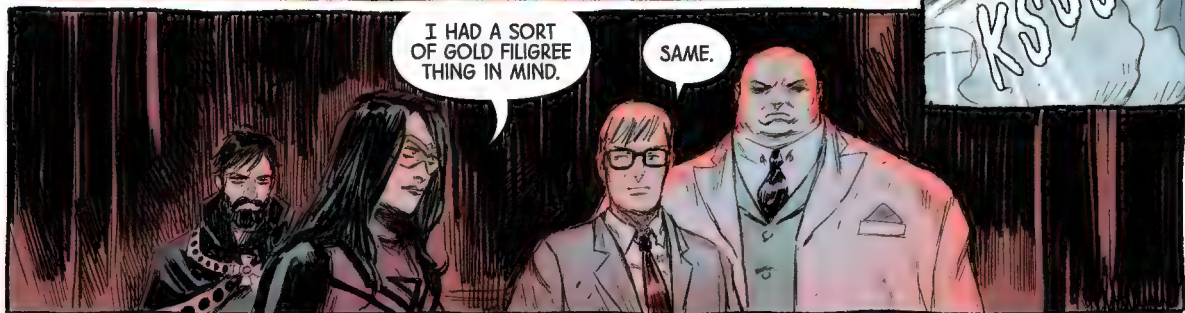
GLADLY.

WEIRD. THAT IS NOT THE SORT OF VAULT I WAS PICTURING.



I HAD A SORT OF GOLD FILIGREE THING IN MIND.

SAME.





→SIGH←

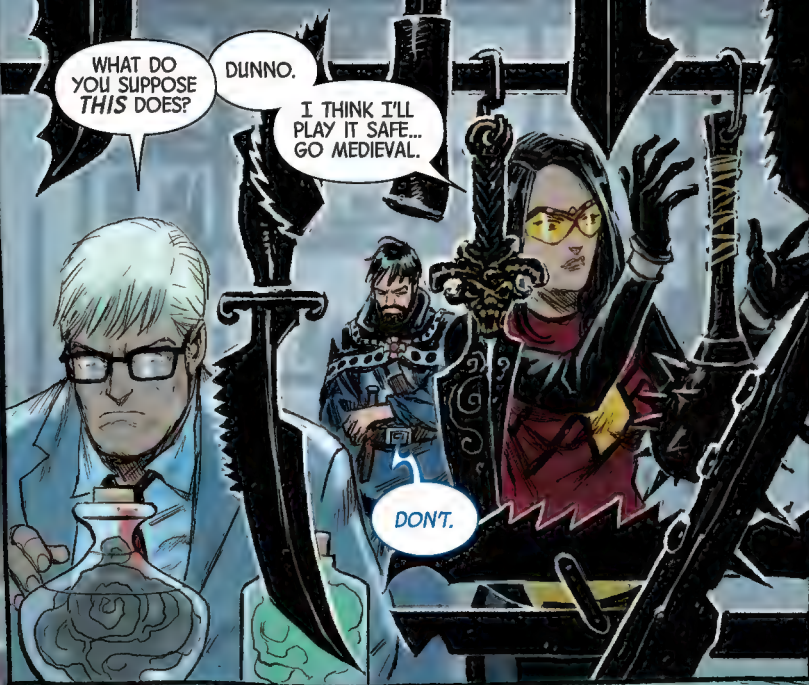
NOTHING
QUITE LIKE SUPER
HERO BANTER TO
MAKE ME MISS THE
SCREECHY
WORDPLAY.

BUT I SUPPOSE
WHEN YOUR BLACK
MAGIC VAULT IS
HOUSED IN A POCKET
DIMENSION...

...IT DOESN'T
MUCH MATTER
WHAT THE *DOOR*
LOOKS LIKE.

AND IT
IS PLENTY
TERRIFYING ON
THE INSIDE.

**HOARY
HOSTS!**



WHAT DO
YOU SUPPOSE
THIS DOES?

DUNNO.

I THINK I'LL
PLAY IT SAFE...
GO MEDIEVAL.

DON'T.



TOUCH!



ANYTHING!

WHAT
THE #S%*,
DOC?!

PEOPLE THROW AROUND
THE TERM BLACK MAGIC,
BUT THIS IS BEYOND
THE PALE. EVIL.
PURE EVIL.

SORCERY
COMES AT A COST...
AND WE ARE **NOT**
PREPARED TO PAY
THESE PRICES.

SPEAK FOR
YOURSELF.



PERHAPS
THERE'S
SOMETHING...
SOME BURDEN
I CAN
CARRY...

HAVE TO
PLAY IT SMART,
THOUGH. THE COST
WILL BE GREAT AND
ONE WRONG MOVE
COULD BE...

...DISASTROUS.

WHEN
IT COMES
TO SAVING
MY SKIN...THESE
POCKETS ARE
DEEP.

BESIDES,
THIS IS WHAT
WE CAME FOR.
LEAVE HERE EMPTY-
HANDED AND
MANHATTAN DIES
IN THE DARK.



→SIGH←

I'VE GOT
NO TIME FOR
YOUR WHITE HAT
HAND-WRINGING,
STRANGE.

WE'RE
LITERALLY
SURROUNDED BY
WEAPONS.

JUST
PICK ONE UP
AND...



FISK...?

WILSON!
NO!





PROBLEM
SOLVED.



UMMM...



YOU'RE
WELCOME.

TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE:



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• Tour •
THE SEVEN SEAS

With

**BLACK MANTA
EMPIRE**



Call 555-FISH